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Legal battle is joined as Trump orders a funding freeze during a review of federal loans and grants

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is pausing federal grants and loans starting Tuesday as President Donald Trump's administration begins an across-the-board ideological review of its spending, causing confusion and panic among organizations that rely on Washington for their financial lifeline.

Administration officials said the decision was necessary to ensure that all funding complies with Trump's executive orders, which are intended to undo progressive steps on transgender rights, environmental justice and diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, efforts.

They also said that federal assistance to individuals would not be affected, including Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, student loans and scholarships. However, the funding



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One en route from Miami to Joint Base Andrews, Md., Monday, Jan. 27, 2025.

freeze could affect trillions of dollars, at least temporarily, and cause widespread disruption in health care research, education programs and other initia-

tives. Even grants that have been awarded but not spent are supposed to be halted. State agencies and early education centers appeared to be struggling to

access money from Medicaid and Head Start, stirring anxiety with answers hard to come by in Washington. Court battles are imminent, and Democratic attorneys

general announced a lawsuit asking a federal judge to block the Republican president's moves.

"There is no question this policy is reckless, dangerous, illegal and unconstitutional," said New York Attorney General Letitia James, who added that the funding freeze is already hurting vital programs.

Her California counterpart, Rob Bonta, said he fears the move will affect money for wildfire recovery. And Peter Neronha in Rhode Island described the pause as "a ham-handed way to run a government."

The issue dominated the first briefing held by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

She said the administration was trying to be "good stewards" of public money by making sure that there was "no more funding for transgenderism and wokeness." □

Associated Press

'Doomsday Clock' moves closer to midnight amid threats of climate change, nuclear war, pandemics, AI

Earth is moving closer to destruction, a science-oriented advocacy group said Tuesday as it advanced its famous "Doomsday Clock" to 89 seconds till midnight, the closest it has ever been. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists made the annual announcement which rates how close humanity is from ending citing threats that include climate change, proliferation of nuclear weapons, instability in the Middle East, the threat of pandemics and incorporation of artificial intelligence in military operations.

The clock had stood at 90 seconds to midnight for the



Former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, second from left, and Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists member Robert Socolow, second from right, reveal the Doomsday Clock, set at 89 seconds to midnight, as fellow members Herbert Lin, left, and Suzet McKinney, right, watch during a news conference at the United States Institute of Peace, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

past two years and "when you are at this precipice, the one thing you don't want to do is take a step forward," said Daniel Holz, chair of the group's science and security board. The group said it's concerned about cooperation between countries such as North Korea, Russia and China in developing nuclear programs. Russia President Vladimir Putin has also talked about using nuclear weapons in his war against Ukraine.

"A lot of the rhetoric is very disturbing," Holz said. "There is this growing sense that ... some nation might end up using nuclear

weapons, and that's terrifying."

Starting in 1947, the advocacy group used a clock to symbolize the potential and even likelihood of people doing something to end humanity.

After the end of the Cold War, it was as close as 17 minutes to midnight. In the past few years, to address rapid global changes, the group has changed from counting down the minutes until midnight to counting down the seconds.

The group said the clock could be turned back if leaders and nations worked together to address existential risks. □

Deportation flights from the U.S. to Colombia resume after a diplomatic spat

By **MANUEL RUEDA, MARKO ALVAREZ and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian migrants returning home Tuesday on Colombian military flights described being shackled during earlier U.S. flights that were blocked by their country's leader in a dispute with President Donald Trump that nearly sparked a trade war.

Deportation flights between the U.S. and Colombia resumed Tuesday after the diplomatic drama over the weekend that provided clues as to how the Trump administration would deal with countries blocking large-scale plans to deport migrants who entered illegally.

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro initially refused to accept two U.S. military planes with migrants, prompting Trump to threaten 25% tariffs on Colombian exports and other sanctions. Colombia then relented and said it would accept the migrants, but fly them on Colombian military flights that Petro said would guarantee them dignity.

Two Colombian air force planes landed Tuesday in Bogota with more than 200 of the migrants, many of them women and children. Petro welcomed them with a post on X saying they are now "free" and "in a country that loves them."

"Migrants are not criminals," Petro wrote. "They are human beings who want to work and get ahead in life."

One of the migrants, José Montaña of Medellín, said they were put in chains on the earlier U.S. flights. "We were shackled from our feet, our ankles to our hips, like criminals," Montaña said. "There were women whose kids had to see their moms shackled like they were drug traffickers."

Some of the migrants told journalists they had been in the United States for less than two weeks, spending most of their time in deten-



Colombian migrants deported from the United States wait inside El Dorado airport after arriving in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025.

Associated Press

tion centers.

"We went for the American dream, and we ended up living the American nightmare" said Carlos Gómez, a migrant from the city of Barranquilla who left Colombia two weeks ago, flew to Mexico, and crossed the border illegally into California, with the help of smugglers.

On Monday evening, Trump recounted the conflict with Petro and maintained that migrants should be restrained when flying back home, arguing it is for security reasons.

"We were being scolded because we had them in shackles in an airplane and he said 'this is no way to treat people,'" he said at a policy conference for House Republicans held at his Doral golf club in Florida. "You've got to understand, these are murderers, drug lords, gang members, just the toughest people you've ever met or seen."

The Trump administration has said that it would prioritize the expulsion of migrants with criminal records in the initial phases of his promised mass deportation, though it also has said the deportations could include anyone who entered illegally.

It was not immediately clear how many of the returned Colombia migrants

had criminal records.

A deal between both countries was made on Sunday night to resume the removal flights, with the White House saying in a statement that Colombia had "agreed to all of President Trump's terms," including the arrival of deportees on military flights. Colombia sent two planes from its air force to Houston and El Paso on Monday to pick up the migrants whose deportation had been delayed over the weekend, as well as dozens of others who had deportations pending. In total, 201 migrants were transported to Bogota on Tuesday, according to Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. □

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(Oranjestad) - Alhambra Casino is proud to announce their Bingo Progressive Winner, who took home the big prize on January 23rd, 2025 during the casino's weekly Super Bingo event.

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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach at the Archaeological Museum of Aruba.

Located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad, the renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is espe-



cially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

At the new location, the

National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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Archeology in Art

Our weekly episodes of Etnia Nativa serve as a platform for promoting the recognition and appreciation of Aruba's cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of reconnecting with the island's unique roots and its ancestral spirit. During this episode we will share a bit of our archaeological artistic connection as a constant presence, a glimpse into our native ethnicity.

Archeology in art is an interdisciplinary field that blends archeology and art history to understand human experience across time. It enables us to uncover not just the aesthetic value of ancient art but also its cultural, religious and social significance. Through the study of ancient artwork, we can learn about the civilizations that created them—what they valued, how they lived, and how they interacted with their surrounding world.

In archeology, art is not just seen as an aesthetic object but as a cultural testimony or artifact that can tell us about the people who created it. By analyzing works of art, archaeologists learn about the essence of a civilization's values, what inspired their religious beliefs, technological advancements, and social structures. The context in which a piece of art is found is crucial. For example, finding a painted or decorated vessel on a burial site can provide information not only about the object itself as such, but also details regarding the culture's views on death, the afterlife, and the role of the deceased played in that particular society.



By studying the materials used to create art—such as wood, stone, bones, clay, or pigments—archaeologists can also infer technological developments and trade networks. One of the key aspects of archaeological art is to decipher and understand the iconography—the visual symbols and imagery—used in ancient art. These symbols can offer profound insights into the beliefs, values, and customs of a society.

For example, our native rock artists were often mystical healers, herbal blenders, and color creators, but probably because of his power to heal and commune with the supernatural, he inspired creativity in himself and in others. They were undoubtedly a continuation of the first surviving shaman who migrated through the Bering pass more than thirty thousand years ago, and in our native language, popularly known as “curanderos or curiosos” (**see “Island Insight” episode 269).

Art often played a significant role in rituals and religious ceremonies. Archaeolo-

Episode CCLXXXVIII - 288

gists often study artworks that were part of burial practices, temple effigies, or other sacred artifacts to obtain deeper insights into how ancient peoples interacted with their gods and the spiritual world. Also, art plays a key role in dating archaeological sites. Certain art styles, techniques, and iconography evolve over time, and by examining the characteristics of a particular piece of art, archaeologists can determine its age relative to other objects in the same or nearby contexts.

Art in archeology often requires careful preservation and restoration. Many ancient artworks are fragile and vulnerable to the elements, so archaeologists must use advanced methods to protect and restore them to gain a deeper understanding of their original form and meaning. Today, archaeologists use digital technologies like 3D modeling, laser scanning, and photogrammetry to digitally preserve artworks and create replicas for exhibitions or enable more detailed analysis without damaging the original pieces.

Archeology and art also intersect in how we interpret ancient artwork in contemporary contexts. How we understand symbols, styles, and techniques is often influenced by modern cultural norms. □

If you enjoyed reading our stories and are interested in learning more regarding the true identity, we recommend you to book a visit to Etnia Nativa—the only “living museum of its kind in the Caribbean”—a fascinating choice, a trend setter since 1994 and co-founder of Aruba National Park, Archaeological Museum and Artisan Foundation among others. Etnia Nativa shares valuable knowledge and connects you to the ancient island's spirit and soul. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



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Cubs finalize trade with Astros for reliever Ryan Pressly

By JAY COHEN

AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs acquired right-

hander Ryan Pressly and cash from the Houston Astros on Tuesday for minor league pitcher Juan Bello.

Pressly likely slides into the closer's role with Chicago, which is looking to go back to the playoffs for the first time since 2020. He had a 3.49 ERA in 59 appearances last year while serving as a setup man for Josh Hader. The 20-year-old Bello went 4-5 with a 3.21 ERA in 22 starts for Class A Myrtle Beach last year. He is 4-8 with a 3.66 ERA in 35 career minor league games.

To make room for Pressly on the 40-man roster, Chicago designated right-hander

Matt Festa for assignment. Festa, 31, was acquired in a trade with Texas on Jan. 9. The Pressly move is the second major offseason deal between Chicago and Houston. The Cubs added All-Star outfielder Kyle Tucker in a multiplayer trade with the Astros in December.

Pressly waived his no-trade clause to go to Chicago. He had the right to block the deal because of his 12 years in the majors and six-plus seasons with Houston. Chicago had been searching for bullpen help since it went 83-79 and finished second in the NL Central in 2024 for the second straight sea-

son. It was reportedly in the mix for Tanner Scott before he joined the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pressly's departure provides some financial flexibility for Houston that it could use to make a renewed push for a reunion with free agent third baseman Alex Bregman. It also could look to upgrade its outfield.

Hader replaced Pressly as Houston's closer after he agreed to a \$95 million, five-year contract last January. He had a 3.80 ERA and 34 saves in 71 games as the Astros won the AL West for the seventh time in the last eight seasons. □



Houston Astros relief pitcher Ryan Pressly walks back onto the mound after throwing a wild pitch that allowed Detroit Tigers' Kerry Carpenter to score in the eighth inning of Game 2 of an AL Wild Card Series baseball game, Oct. 2, 2024, in Houston.

Associated Press

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Tush push could play a prominent role in the Super Bowl if championship Sunday was any indication

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

If the conference championships are any indication, some of the highest drama in the Super Bowl in New Orleans in two weeks could come on the tush push perfected by the Philadelphia Eagles and decryped by the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Eagles (17-3) are so adept at their vaunted short-yardage plays that the Commanders committed four penalties with Jalen Hurts & Co. at or inside the 1-yard line in the fourth quarter of Philadelphia's 55-23 rout of Washington on Sunday.

Kansas City's 32-29 squeaker over Buffalo that sent the Chiefs (17-2) to their third consecutive Super Bowl turned early in the fourth quarter when they stuffed Bills quarterback Josh Allen or did they? on fourth-and-inches at midfield while trailing by a point.

Although it initially appeared to millions of viewers and at least one official that Allen got the nose of the football across the line, the call on the field was no gain and a turnover on downs, and replay concurred.

In Philadelphia, referee Shawn Hochuli admonished the Commanders to stop their shenanigans or he'd award the Eagles a



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts, center, and teammates run the tush push play during the NFL championship playoff football game against the Washington Commanders, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, in Philadelphia.

touchdown via an obscure regulation in the unsportsmanlike conduct section of the NFL's rule book.

Sandwiched around Jonathan Allen lining up in the neutral zone and getting flagged for encroachment, linebacker Frankie Luvu mistimed his jump over both lines for encroachment penalties on successive plays in a desperate attempt to keep the Eagles out of the end zone.

The four flags in a five-play sequence the Commanders legitimately

stopped Hurts once put the ball within an inch of the goal line, and Hurts finally plowed into the end zone to give Philadelphia a three-score lead.

After Luvu's second illegal leap, Hochuli warned Washington that he'd call unsportsmanlike conduct. After Allen jumped offside again on an Eagles hard count, Hochuli had seen enough and, like a scolding parent, announced that referees can indeed award a team a touchdown for repeated penalties.

"Washington has been advised that at some point, the referee can award a score if this type of behavior happens again," Hochuli said during his in-game announcement.

"Simply put, a team can't commit multiple fouls in an effort to prevent the score," Hochuli told a pool reporter after the game. "So, No. 4 (Luvu) jumped the ball a couple of times, that was when the warning came in. Again, if it's meant to prevent a score, we can essentially award the score."

It's right there in Rule 12, Section 3, Article 2 of the league's rule book. Titled "Fouls To Prevent Score," it states, "The defense shall not commit successive or repeated fouls to prevent a score." Further, the rule reads that "if the violation is repeated after a warning, the score involved is awarded to the offensive team."

The Commanders finally stayed onside, the flags finally stayed tucked into officials' pockets and Hurts finally scored, giving Philly a 41-23 lead.

In Kansas City, where the Bills were eliminated by the Chiefs for the fourth time in five years, Buffalo rallied to take a 22-21 lead and faced a fourth-and-1 at the Kansas City 41 early in the fourth quarter.

Allen was stopped on a sneak even though it appeared one official marked the ball past the line of gain before another placed it short. Replay review upheld the call because there wasn't clear evidence to overturn it.

"It looked to me like he got to it," Bills coach Sean McDermott said, "and that's all I can say."

CBS rules analyst Gene Steratore agreed, saying on the broadcast, "I felt like he gained it by about a third of the football." □

Associated Press

Jake, Logan Paul suggest their next fight is against each other on HBO Max

By The Associated Press

Brothers Jake Paul and Logan Paul made social media announcements Tuesday that suggested their next fight will be against each other and aired on HBO Max. Calling it the "moment you've waited a decade for," the posts featured a head-to-head shot of the brothers with a March 27 date and the HBO Max logo. Further details were not included in the posts.

Jake Paul, 28, and Logan Paul, 29, are both YouTube stars who know how to create a buzz. Their exhibitions have drawn the interest of the biggest names in combat sports. Jake Paul defeated Mike Tyson in November in an eight-round unanimous decision. Logan Paul went the distance in an exhibition against Floyd Mayweather in 2021. An HBO Max fight would be a first for

the Pauls, who have had their bouts aired on platforms such as DAZN, Showtime, Fanmio, ESPN+ and Netflix.

Jake Paul and Tyson, the former heavyweight champion, broke records. Promoters said in November that the Tyson-Paul fight was the highest-grossing combat sports event ever in Texas, pulling in \$18.1 million. BetMGM said the bout was by far its most-bet boxing or mixed-martial arts fight, taking three times the number of bets and four times the money of any combat sport in its history.

Logan Paul is a part-time performer for World Wrestling Entertainment. He has been wildly successful in WWE, having claimed the United States Championship and participated in several premium live events. □



Logan Paul, right, and Jake Paul appear in Emancipation Hall at the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press